

Everything comes to him who waits. A forty-thousand-dollar fortune in Germany is awaiting a St. Louis waitress. It is to be hoped the dollars will not prove an evanescent dream.

Speaking of the bird that "lays the golden egg" in Missouri it's the turkey. Out of the eggs of that bird were hatched turkeys in 1902 that sold in the open market for over \$8,000,000.

The burglars in Chicago complain that the police are not honest and honorable. That is to say, when a burglar pays the police for protecting him, they take his money and then often fail to protect—although, of course, they don't go so far as to protect the public.

Rev. John Alexander Dowie has placed a hoodoo upon Rev. Stephen Merritt, of New York. In other words Dowie has excommunicated his fellow worker in the gospel field. Merritt having "backslid," he is "delivered up to Satan for the destruction of the flesh."

An ice-box holdup man in Chicago has introduced a new feature into the game. He not only locked the proprietor up, but doused his apron, and for two hours dispensed fluids over the counter, pocketing the proceeds together with what he found in the cash register.

Great Britain's recognition of the Panama republic, the presentation of Minister Buchanan's credentials and the disbandment of the Colombian volunteer forces in the neighborhood of the new nation's southern boundary, gave the United States' young ward at the isthmus a very merry sort of a Christmas. Panama has reason to remember this holiday with pleasure.

Advices from New York suggest that cotton may go to the twenty-cent mark. If so, this will be the highest point ever reached by that staple in this country. There is a question as to whether cotton is intrinsically worth the money. However, the increased quantities consumed in the United States, by reason of additional mills in the south, is an encouraging sign, but such an abnormal rise would close the most of them.

There have been almost 4,000 more patents issued during the twelve months of 1903 just closed than in the previous years; over 6,000 more than during the year 1901, and over 30,000 more than were issued the first year of the existence of the office. The issue of patents for 1903 was 31,699; trade marks, 2,186, an increase of 185 over last year; labels, 909, an increase of 221 over the year previous; prints, 270, an increase of 112 over 1902.

The tallest building on earth is to be erected in New York. If the present plans are carried out. With five stories below the street level, forty stories high from the entrance to the top floor and surmounted by a 60-foot tower, the gigantic new building will have a total height of 615 feet, making it over twice as high as the Flatiron building and almost as tall again as the Park Row building, which at present holds the record. It will be a great sight for rubbernecks.

The terrible catastrophe in Chicago the worst of the kind in the history of the country, is a most impressive warning on the fire dangers connected with theaters, halls or other places of public assemblage, and also on the perils of panic in any crowded place. Theaters are not the only buildings insufficiently provided with safeguards against fire and panic. But they are more exposed to the fatal consequences because they are often used twice a day, and frequently packed to the doors.

Not long ago the Russians committed atrocities at Kishineff which startled the world. The Russians have ever persecuted the Jews, and have paid slight heed to protests. But now Russia desires to borrow money—a large sum of it—from the Rothschilds. It is said that the Rothschilds will refuse to make the loan. This would be but justice. Disraeli ought to be alive to be at the same time thwarting Russia and grimly smiling when the czar's ministers find their financial operations blocked by the power of his race.

Technicalities appear to "cut some ice," even in the great state of Iowa. Gov. Cummins has refused the application of New Jersey officials for the extradition of a wife-deserter. The New Jersey law provides the punishment of men who "desert their wives and leave the state." The governor says that "leaving the state must be part of the crime, and therefore the crime could not be committed until the offender had left the state. Having left the state before the crime was committed, he can not be extradited and returned to the state."

THE DAY AFTER THE DISASTER

The Entire City of Chicago Completely Stunned By the Enormity of the Disaster.

THOUSANDS ARE SEARCHING FOR FRIENDS OR RELATIVES.

The Morgues the Scenes of Heart-rending Spectacles as the Search Goes On.

The Fated Theater Closely Guarded by Cordon of Police and None Allowed to Enter Without Permit—A Rigid Investigation Is to Be Made.

Known Dead 550
Injured 157
Probably Fatally 50
Missing 314

MOST DESTRUCTIVE IN HISTORY.

Iroquois Theater Disaster the Worst of Its Kind Recorded.

Chicago, Jan. 1.—The Iroquois theater was vastly more destructive to human life than any other playhouse fire in the history of the world. The fire next to it in point of lives lost occurred December 5, 1875, in Conway's Brooklyn theater, Brooklyn, N. Y., where 255 of the audience perished in the flames.

The day after Christmas, in 1811, while the play, "The Bleeding Nun," was being performed in a theater at Richmond, Va., a fire started that burned 75 persons to death, among them being the governor of the state, George W. Smith. The old world supplies no instance of fires in theaters that may be classed with the three mentioned.

DAY AFTER THE DISASTER.

Chicago Stunned By the Enormity of the Calamity.

Chicago, Jan. 1.—Thursday brought only the legacy of Wednesday's monumental calamity, and the prediction that the list of fatalities in the Iroquois fire will run over 600 when information is complete. The latest statement of dead at various morgues is 550, and it is stated at the various hospitals and hotels to which the injured were removed, that of the 557 people who were injured, probably one-third can not live. The missing are estimated at 314, but it is expected that many of these will be accounted for, probably a large majority of them.

The City Stunned.

It is no extravagance of language to say that the city is stunned by the overwhelming tragedy which was enacted when the theater which housed "Mr. Bluebird" became a chamber of horrors, indeed. There is the deepest woe in hundreds of homes deep sorrow in thousands of others. And a pity beyond the potency of words to convey, in all.

The first streak of daylight which shone on the snow-covered streets found the morgues still the sorrow-haunted center of many a searcher. There were husbands searching for their wives, wives searching for husbands, frenzied parents seeking their children, so many of whom lost their lives, and in some instances wide-eyed children, still dazed from the horror of their experience, groped distressedly about in search of father and mother.

The Depth of Sympathy.

Possibly nothing could better typify the depth of sympathy which is felt by those directly affected by the disaster than the action of the livery drivers. By a vote that was without a dissenting voice it was decided to establish a truce of ten days. President Albert Young, of the union, following the meeting, issued the following decree, which was distributed broadcast:

"Owing to the great disaster to the public caused by the fire at the Iroquois theater, I do hereby declare a truce in the present strike of undertakers and livery drivers for ten days, and do further request that every man now on strike report at once to their respective places of employment, and do everything in his power to assist his employer in caring for the wants of the public. Wages are to have no consideration."

[Signed.] "ALBERT YOUNG."
Employees Not to Be Outdone.

In their turn the employers issued a call to their striking employees to return to work "irrespective of any previous affiliations with any and all organizations," and promising to protect them in all contingencies which may arise in the future.

All night long the crowds came and went around the morgues where the bodies of the victims of the disaster lay. There were the heads of families, brothers, sisters and men and women looking for those from outside cities who had been their guests. For hours

they passed on and down before the long rows of dead, searching for the faces of their missing.

Opinions of Theatrical Men.

Among many of the theatrical men employed in the other Chicago theaters, the responsibility for the fire is ascribed to the careless placing of electric light apparatus too close to one of the hanging borders of the scenery. The electrician of a leading Chicago theater expressed great surprise on hearing that this was considered a possible cause of the fire.

"There never would have been any fire," he said, "if proper care had been exercised in handling the lights. The electric plant of the theater was installed, as I happen to know from personal observation, in accordance with every modern requirement for safety. The plant was not to blame. If the facts I have been given are correct, the whole blame rests on the person who placed, or was operating a light so closely to the curtain."

Friction With the Curtains.

The failure of the expected fire protection is attributed by insurance men to trouble with the asbestos curtain.

The stage always is recognized as the danger point in a theater, and the desire is to have it cut off from the auditorium as thoroughly as possible. The insurance men declare that the curtain at the Iroquois never had worked perfectly and that the mechanism had not been repaired.

Fire Loss Not Heavy.

E. R. Wetmore, of the insurance firm which placed the insurance on the Iroquois theater, declared that the loss would not exceed \$20,000. He also asserted that the spread of the flames to the auditorium was due to the failure of the asbestos curtain to work properly.

Criticism on Construction.

Early last summer a prominent trade journal of Chicago criticized the construction of the Iroquois theater, because it lacked a shaft or flue at the back of the stage for carrying the flames and smoke upward and away from the auditorium in the event of fire. Such shafts were built in Madison Square garden and the Metropolitan opera house in New York, and a similar provision is made at the Chicago Auditorium.

The method of fireproofing the balcony and gallery was also declared by this magazine to be defective, because metal lath was used in what is known as exposed construction, where heat would easily affect it. In modern fireproof buildings this lath is buried in concrete. It was the buckling out of this metal lath and iron rods, giving the impressions that the galleries themselves were falling, that is believed by some contractors to have been partly responsible for the panic. There was no criticism of the gallery and balcony arches, which were built in the usual manner.

Fire Chief At a Loss.

Chief Musham, of the fire department, when asked what would best prevent a repetition of the horror, said:

"I don't know as I can answer that question," until an investigation has been made as to the causes of this fire. On the whole, I suppose it would be a good thing for the department to have active uniformed men, prepared to act, stationed in every theater throughout every performance. I understand that New York has them, and that they are paid by the managements of the theaters. They had a man in the Iroquois who was an ex-member of the Chicago fire department. He was old, but he should have known what to do. It seems to me that there is nothing in the world, at least nothing that I can think of at the present moment, that can save lives when a thousand persons try to pass through one doorway at one time. It was the rushing, the crowding and the trampling that was responsible for the majority of the deaths that have occurred. Anybody who views the dead in the morgues can tell that at a glance."

A CAUSE OF WONDER.

Prompt Gathering of an Army of Physicians and Nurses.

It was a cause of wonder to many people around the theater building how so many physicians and trained nurses could arrive on the spot within so short a time. Dr. Herman Spalding, senior officer in the city health department, at the time the fire broke out, made all the arrangements for medical attendance.

"I telephoned to all the physicians in the downtown district," he said, "and then to hospitals, nurse associations and schools, for persons to assist in the care of the injured. Employees telephoned to all the principal office buildings, and told the operators at the switchboards to notify every physician in the building, while others telephoned to the nurses. There were over 100 physicians whom I personally knew at the fire, and probably 150 nurses. There has never been, as far as I have been aware, a call for so many physicians in Chicago at any one time since the great fire. Within a few minutes physicians three and five miles from the downtown district were offering their services."

Council Gives Chris Blanche.

Mayor Harrison was on his way to the south for a hunting trip, and

Comptroller McGann was acting mayor. It happened that the finance committee of the city council was in session when the extent of the disaster became known at the city council. Mr. McGann at once walked into the committee room, and was told by Chairman Mayer of the committee to direct the fire marshal, the chief of police, and the commissioner of public works, to proceed in the emergency without any restriction of any kind as to expense. He was told to do everything needful, spend all the money necessary, and look to the council for his warrant. "We will be your authority for everything you do," said Alderman Mayer. Mayor Harrison telegraphed to.

A telegram was at once sent to Mayor Harrison, informing him of the fire, and he returned on the first train.

BLISSFUL IGNORANCE.

Audience At the Garrick Theater Not Allowed to Know.

Chicago, Dec. 31.—One of the largest audiences ever seen in the Garrick theater, which is on the same street as the Iroquois, less than one block distant, sat in complete ignorance of the awful tragedy which was being enacted 200 feet from where they sat.

When the fire engines commenced to patter past the Garrick Manager Schubert became fearful lest the impression that his theater was on fire should spread in the audience.

When the intermission between acts came, he ordered the doors closed, and refused to allow anyone to pass in or out, as he was determined that no knowledge of the fire should reach the audience.

Kept Audience Entertained.

Wilton Lackaye, the star of the play now being presented at the Garrick, stepped before the curtain and entertained the audience for over five minutes with a witty speech, which kept his hearers in continual laughter. The orchestra contributed its part toward diverting the audience, and the curtain rose for the next act without anybody other than the theater employees knowing that hundreds of lives were being sacrificed almost next door to the Garrick.

Unexpected Greetings.

When the people fled out of the Garrick they were greeted at the door by hundreds of frenzied men and women, who anxiously scanned their faces to see if any of their friends were among them. They were looking for members of their families and acquaintances who had gone downtown simply to attend a matinee, without stating to what theater they had intended to go. There were many scenes of joyful recognition, and astonished members of the Garrick audience were hugged and kissed in frantic delight by their relatives, who, up to that time, had believed it possible that they were in the ghastly pile of dead lying within the doors of the Iroquois theater.

CONSOLATION FOR THE DYING.

General Absolution Pronounced by Bishop Muldoon.

Chicago, Jan. 1.—When Rev. F. O'Brien, of the Holy Name Cathedral, learned of the fire, and heard that so many were dying, he rushed into the old Tremont house, which is now converted into the Northwestern university law school, into which many victims had been taken, to administer the last sacrament to members of the Catholic church. He was followed, an instant later, by Bishop Muldoon, the highest Catholic prelate next to Archbishop Quigley in the diocese of Chicago. Finding that they were unable to attend the great number being brought in, Bishop Muldoon announced that he would give a general absolution to all the Catholics among the victims.

A Pathetic Scene.

During the brief moment that the two priests with uplifted hands besought God to pardon all the frailties of his dying servants, the poor mangled men and women who lay in dozens on the floor seemed to realize that they were face to face with the last scene in their lives. Many, though crazed with pain, ceased to moan, and fastened their fast-dimming eyes on the two priests. After the absolution was given, many of them barely able to move feebly stretched out their hands imploringly to the priests for one handshake and one word of sympathy before they passed away. Both clergymen administered absolution, remaining till the dead were removed to the morgue and the injured to various hospitals.

BY ORDER OF THE CORONER.

The Theater Charnel House Under Tight Police Guard.

Chicago, Jan. 1.—By order of Coroner Traeger the theater charnel house has been placed under a tight police guard. No person could enter without a written order from Chief of Police O'Neill, who was notified that he would be held responsible for keeping the theater building in the exact condition in which it was left by the sweep of the flames.

Thirty patrolmen were stationed across the front of the building and 20 men guarded the rear; within were 30 more officers, the whole interior, including the stairways and fire-bitted balconies being jealously guarded.

Search of the Basement.

As soon as possible an additional detail of policemen went through the burned building from top to bottom. There were fears that in the basement, beneath ten feet of muddy water, would be found more victims of the smoke and flames. Big fire engines that before had deluged the place, were being utilized to draw forth dozens of streams of thick, murky water from the basement, while a dozen firemen in hip boots made a thorough search of the basement for bodies. No bodies, however, were found in the basement.

Thousands of the Curious.

Thousands of the curious tried vainly to reach the scene of the fire. The police, however, permitted no loitering on either side of the street near by. If they did, the onlookers would have seen nothing out of the ordinary, for the exterior of the building was the same as before the fire. The giant stone head of an Iroquois Indian over the grand entrance, fitting symbol of the cruelty of the deserted structure, stood forth from a front unstained by smoke or water.

Scene Without, Desolate Within.

Though serene without, the interior of the theater marked it as a true white sepulchre. Upon the marble staircases at the left and right within were the mess and confusion of the grim march of the bearers of the dead. Among the thousands of bits of brilliantly colored glass, shattered in the fight against the flames, lay many scorched bits of clothing and occasional fragments of charred bodies. From the upper galleries the view seemed a reminder of a burned-out volcano crater.

Suggestive Relics.

In a saloon near the theater was being guarded a huge pile of garments and furs gathered up in the theater after the fire. Five bushel baskets were filled with the purses, gloves and handkerchiefs of the fleeing mob of terror-stricken women. Two barrels were needed to hold the overshoes and shoes found.

At Rolston's Morgue.

The greatest center of excitement of the day was not the theater, but Rolston's morgue, to which dead were taken. All the morgues were surrounded—but at Rolston's where more bodies of the dead were taken, than any other, the scenes were the worst. About the doors of the place were massed hundreds of men and surrounding them, like a huge fan, spread the hundreds of weeping women and children. The numerous police stationed there could not begin to handle the crowds, and extra details were hurried to the besieged morgue. On a lesser scale the same fearful siege was in progress at the various other morgues.

NOTHING LEFT UNDONE.

Every Ordinance Had Been Complied With in the Building.

Chicago, Jan. 1.—While the dead were being examined by friends, the records of the city building department were also being closely scrutinized. According to the record, the building ordinance with regard to the theaters was complied with in every particular in the construction of the Iroquois. The report of the inspector, Edward Loughlin, is that not one of the provisions of the ordinance was violated. It was generally considered to be an absolutely fireproof structure. According to Benjamin H. Marshall, architect of the building, and who is now on his way here from Philadelphia, the exits were more ample than usually planned for such buildings. He bemoans the use of wood in a theater, however, and declared that he will never allow another bit of wood to be used in a theater. The Iroquois was provided with 27 double fire exits, but wood was used and stairways were employed.

Only One Jury of Inquest.

With the announcement that one jury of representative citizens would listen to all the evidence regarding the fire, and return a single verdict for all the victims, Coroner Traeger promptly impaneled a jury. National Republican Committeeman Graeme Stewart, member of the firm of Wm. M. Hoyt & Co., wholesale grocers, was told by the coroner that the death of Mr. Hoyt's daughter, Mrs. F. Morton Fox, and her three children, would be taken as a basis for the investigation.

"If any persons are responsible for this fire," said Coroner Traeger, "they will be presented to the fullest extent of the law."

"The investigation of the fire will be thorough. We will leave no stone unturned in our efforts to fix the responsibility."

ANOTHER FATAL FIRE.

Explosion and Fire in the United States Feather Co.'s Factory—At Least One Killed.

Chicago, Jan. 1.—An explosion occurred, Thursday on the fourth floor of the United States Feather Co.'s factory. Twenty or 30 men were at work on the floor at the time, and of these at least one, Daniel Phelan, who jumped into the alley through a window, was killed. Others of the workmen were reported to have been burned, the number being uncertain.

The building was soon a mass of flames.